United Nations A/57/269–S/2002/854

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2002
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session
Item 162 of the provisional agenda*
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 31 July 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 31 July 2002 in connection with the sudden exacerbation of the situation in the area of the Russian-Georgian border and attempts by international terrorists to effect an armed breakthrough into the territory of the Russian Federation (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 162 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session, and also of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gennady M. **Gatilov**
Permanent Representative a.i.

* A/57/150.

02-50419 (E) 010802 010802

Annex

Statement by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The situation in the area of the Russian-Georgian border has suddenly become exacerbated in recent days. From their bases located in Georgia's Pankisi Gorge, Chechen fighters and international terrorists have made armed attempts to penetrate the territory of the Russian Federation.

These events provide persuasive confirmation of the fact that Tbilisi's policy of appeasing the terrorists and attempting to part with them "in a friendly manner" is resulting in a new wave of terror, loss of human life and serious destabilization in the Caucasus and in Georgia itself.

It should be pointed out that the Georgian authorities, who have repeatedly assured the world community of their readiness to restore by themselves order in the Pankisi Gorge, have once again acknowledged their unwillingness to take practical measures to halt terrorism. To all appearances, they are unable and really do not wish to do that there. At the same time, Tbilisi is avoiding practical cooperation with the Russian Federation in conducting an anti-terrorist operation, and Georgia's foreign policy department is clumsily attempting to cast a smokescreen over the events on the border, having accused the Russian Federation of aggressive acts against Georgia.

Such a position on the part of Tbilisi obviously runs counter to Georgia's obligations under United Nations Security Council anti-terrorist resolution 1373 (2001). This resolution, adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, which deals with action to restore international peace and security provides, in particular, for mandatory measures for all States to prevent and suppress terrorist activities in their territory. We assume that this decision will, finally, be properly implemented by Georgia as well.

Moscow considers that the Georgian authorities are obliged to take effective measures to destroy the terrorist bases in the Pankisi Gorge. The responsibility for the consequences of the armed incursion by bandits into the territory of the Russian Federation lies fully with the Georgian side.